



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska  
**Deborah R. Gilg**

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1620 Dodge Street Suite 1400 Omaha NE 68102-1506 (402) 661-3700

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October 18, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah Gilg and the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

On October 18, 2010, United States District Court Judge Laurie Smith Camp sentenced Duane Whipple to five years of probation following his conviction of embezzlement from an Indian tribal organization. Whipple was also ordered to pay restitution to the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska in the amount of \$21, 515.84.

Whipple had been an employee in the finance office of the Santee Sioux tribe. He became frustrated when he did not get pay raises and when he saw others in the office taking unauthorized payroll advances. From October of 2005 through February 2007, he made numerous unauthorized payroll advances to himself in excess of \$7,000. In addition, he either wrote or caused to be issued over \$9,000 in checks made out to him. These checks purportedly contained the signature of tribal council members who had authority to sign checks. However, the council members looked at the signatures and advised they were forged. The defendant also caused checks to be issued to third parties to pay for a stereo for his car and for utility bills for his ex-wife.

**Name of Defendant:** Duane Whipple

**AKA:**

**Age:** 41

**City of residence:** Niobrara, Nebraska

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Embezzlement from an Indian tribal organization in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1163. The maximum statutory penalty is five years of imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine, three years of supervised release and a special assessment of \$100.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Santee Sioux Indian Reservation

**Location of Arrest:** a summons was issued

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:**

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** 10/06/2005 through 08/28/07

**Federal Arrest Date:**

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:** An Indictment was filed on May 28, 2010

**Initial Appearance Date:** July 21, 2010

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** July 21, 2010

**Sentencing Date:** October 18, 2010

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:**

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** Honorable FA Gossett, III

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** release from custody

**In Continuous Custody Since:**

**Assigned District Court Judge:** Honorable Laurie Smith Camp

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** DRS